

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 399 without my signature.

I strongly support the protection of vulnerable populations and to that end have supported increased staffing for inspection and enforcement efforts in long-term care facilities. I have also signed legislation to ensure skilled nursing facilities are in compliance with state and federal laws. With these resources, the Department of Public Health has significantly improved initiation and completion of complaint investigations. This is important progress and I believe it will provide greater protection to our state's most vulnerable elderly and disabled populations.

While I believe this bill is well-intended, it is premature to place additional investigation requirements on this program as it continues to demonstrate progress in meeting its mandated state and federal workload.

For this reason, I am unable to sign this bill.

Sincerely,

Arnold Schwarzenegger